

"To thine own self be true, and it must follow,

as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man."

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POETRY.

Never Give Up.

Never give up, brother, never give up!
God has a blessing for those who work hard;
Why should you murmur, and grumble, and fret,
And envy the pleasure from which you're debarred?
Work like a man,
Do the best you can;
This is the wisest, and best plan!
Never give up, brother, never give up!
Though the future looks lowering, and gloomy,
And drear;
Though the sun shine not now, yet it may very soon,
So keep up a brave heart and tread down your fear!
Soon may come light,
And all will be bright,
Only struggle and strive to do what is right!
Never give up, brother, never give up!
Though your burden be heavy, and dark your way,
The bow in the clouds only comes with the rain,
And when night is deepest, then bursts forth the day:
Soon troubles will cease,
And your sorrows decrease;
Only trust in the Lord and then all will be peace.

POLITICAL.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

[CONCLUDED.]

The condition of our finances and the operations of our revenue system are set forth and fully explained in the able and instructive report of the Secretary of the Treasury. On the 30th of June, 1866, the public debt amounted to \$2,783,125,879; on the 30th of June last it was \$2,892,199,215; showing a reduction during the fiscal year of \$91,226,664. During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1867, the receipts were \$490,684,010, and the expenditures, \$346,729,129, leaving an available surplus of \$143,954,880. It is estimated that the receipts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1868, will be \$417,161,028, and that the expenditures will reach the sum of \$393,269,228, leaving in the Treasury a surplus of \$23,892,792. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1869, it is estimated that the receipts will amount to \$481,000,000, and that the expenditures will be \$372,000,000, showing an excess of \$9,000,000, in favor of the Government.

The attention of Congress is earnestly invited to the necessity of a thorough revision of our Revenue system. Our Internal Revenue laws and impost system, should be so adjusted as to bear the most heavily on articles of luxury, leaving the necessities of life as free from taxation, as may be consistent with the real wants of the Government economically administered. Taxation would not then fall unduly on the man of moderate means, and none would be entirely exempt from assessment, all in proportion to their pecuniary abilities would contribute toward the support of the State. A modification of the internal revenue system, by a large reduction in the number of articles now subject to tax, would be followed by results equally advantageous to the citizen and the Government. It would render the execution of the law less expensive and more certain, remove obstructions to industry, lessen the temptations to evade the law, diminish the violations and frauds perpetrated upon its provisions, make its operations less inquisitorial, and greatly reduce in numbers the army of tax gatherers created by the system, who "take from the mouth of honest labor the bread it has earned." Retrenchment, reform, and economy should be carried into every branch of the public service, that the expenditures of the Government may be reduced, and the people relieved from oppressive taxation. A sound currency should be restored, and the public faith in regard to the national debt sacredly observed. The accomplishment of these important results, together with the restoration of the Union of the States upon the principles of the Constitution, would inspire confidence at home and abroad in the stability of our institutions, and bring to the nation prosperity, peace and good will.

The report of the Secretary of War and interim exhibits the operations of the army, and of the several bureaus of the War Department. The aggregate strength of our military force on the 30th of Sept. last was 56,315. The total estimate for military appropriations is \$77,124,707, including a deficiency in last year's appropriation of \$13,600,000. The payments at the Treasury on account of the service of the War Department from January 1 to October 20, 1867, a period of 10 months, amounted to \$100,807,000; the expenses of the military establishments as well as the numbers of the army, are now three times as great as they have ever been in time of peace, while the discretionary power is vested in the Executive to add millions to this expenditure by an increase of the army to the maximum strongly allowed by the law.

The menacing attitude of some of the war-

like bands of Indians inhabiting the district of country between the Arkansas and Platte Rivers, and portions of Dakota Territory, required the presence of a large military force in that region. Instigated by real or imaginary grievances, the Indians occasionally committed acts of barbarous violence upon emigrants and our frontier settlements; but a general Indian war has been providentially averted. The Commissioners under the act of 20th of July, 1867, were invested with full power to adjust existing difficulties, negotiate treaties with the disaffected bands, and select for them reservations, remote from the traveled routes between the Mississippi and the Pacific. They entered without delay upon the execution of their trust, but have not yet made any official report of their proceedings. It is of vital importance that our distant territories should be exempt from Indian outbreaks, and that the construction of the Pacific Railroad, an object of national importance, should not be interrupted by hostile tribes. These objects, as well as the material interests and the moral and intellectual improvement of the Indians, can be most effectually secured by concentrating their portions of country set apart for their exclusive use, and located at points remote from our highways and encroaching white settlements. Since the commencement of the second session of the Thirty-ninth Congress, 510 miles of road have been constructed on the main line and branches of the Pacific Railroad. The line from Omaha is rapidly approaching the eastern base of the Rocky Mountains, while the terminus of the last section of constructed road in California, accepted by the Government on the 21st day of October last, was but 11 miles distant from the summit of the Sierra Nevada. The remarkable energy evinced by the Companies offers the strongest assurance that the completion of the road from Sacramento to Omaha will not be long deferred. During the last fiscal year 7,011,114 acres of public land were disposed of, and the cash receipts from sales of the same amounted to \$2,806,607. The report of the Secretary of the Navy states that we have seven squadrons actively and judiciously employed, under efficient and able commanders, in protecting the persons and property of American citizens, maintaining the dignity and power of the Government, and promoting the commerce and business interest of our countrymen in every part of the world. Of the 238 vessels comprising the present navy of the United States, 56, carrying 507 guns, are in squadron service. During the year the number of vessels in commission has been reduced 12, and there are 13 less on squadron duty than there were at the date of the last report. A large number of vessels were commenced and in course of construction when the war terminated, and although Congress had made the necessary appropriations for their completion, the Department has either suspended work upon them or limited the slow completion of the steam vessels, so as to meet the contracts for machinery made with private establishments. The total expenditures of the Navy Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1867, were \$31,034,011. No appropriations have been made or required since the close of the year for the construction and repair of vessels, for steam machinery, ordnance, provisions and clothing, fuel, hemp, &c., the balances under these several heads having been more than sufficient for current expenditures. It should also be stated to the credit of the Department that, besides asking no appropriations for the above objects for the last two years, the Secretary of the Navy, on the 30th of September last, in accordance with the act of May 1, 1820, requested the Secretary of the Treasury to carry to the surplus fund the sum of \$55,000,000, being the amount received from the sales of vessels and other war property, and the remnants of former appropriations. The report of the Postmaster-General shows the business of the Post-Office Department and the condition of the postal service in a very favorable light, and the attention of Congress is called to its practical recommendations. The receipts of the Department for the year ending June 30, 1867, including all special appropriations for sea and land service and for free mail matter, were \$19,078,093. The expenditures for all purposes were \$19,285,483, leaving an unexpended balance in favor of the Department of \$743,210, which can be applied toward the expenses of the Department for the current year. The increase of postal revenue, independent of

specific appropriations, for the year 1867, over that of 1866, was \$850,010. The increase of revenue from the sale of stamps and stamped envelopes was \$783,401. The increase of expenditures for 1867 over those of the previous year was owing chiefly to the extension of the land and ocean mail service. During the past year new postal conventions have been ratified and exchanged with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the North German Union, Italy, and the Colonial Government at Hong-Kong, reducing very largely the rates of ocean and land postage to and from and within those countries. The report of the Acting Commissioner of Agriculture concisely presents the condition, wants, and progress of an interest eminently worthy the fostering care of Congress, and exhibits a large measure of useful results achieved during the year to which it refers.

The re-establishment of peace at home, and the resumption of extended trade, travel, and commerce abroad have served to increase the number and variety of questions in the Department for Foreign Affairs. None of these questions, however, have seriously disturbed our relations with other States.

The Republic of Mexico having been relieved from foreign intervention is earnestly engaged in efforts to re-establish her constitutional system of government. A good understanding continues to exist between our Government and the Republics of Hayti and San Domingo, and our cordial relations with the Central and South American States remain unchanged. The tender made in conformity with the resolution of Congress of the good offices of the Government, with a view to an amicable adjustment and peace between Brazil and her allies on one side, and Paraguay on the other, and between Chili and her allies on the one side, and Spain on the other, though kindly received, has in neither case been fully accepted by the belligerents. War in the valley of the Parana is still vigorously maintained. On the other hand, arms and munitions have been more than a year suspended. I shall, on any proper occasion that may occur, renew the conciliatory recommendations which have already been made. Brazil, with enlightened sagacity and comprehensive statesmanship, has opened the great channels of the Amazon and its tributaries to universal commerce. One thing more seems needful to assume a rapid and cheering progress in South America. I refer to those peaceful habits without which States and nations cannot in this age well expect material prosperity or social advancement.

The Exposition Universal of Industry at Paris has passed and seems to have fully realized the high expectations of the French Government. If due allowance be made for the recent political derangement of industry here, the part which the United States has borne in this exhibition of invention and art may be regarded with very high satisfaction. During the Exposition a Conference was held, of delegates from several nations, the United States being one, in which the inconveniences of commerce and commercial intercourse resulting from diverse standards of money value were discussed, and plans were developed for establishing by universal consent and common principle for the coinage of gold. These conferences are expected to be renewed with the attendance of many foreign States not hitherto represented. A report of these interesting proceedings will be submitted to Congress, which will no doubt justly appreciate the great object, and be ready to adopt any measure which may tend to facilitate its ultimate accomplishment.

On the 25th of February, 1862, Congress declared by law that Treasury notes without interest, authorized by that act, should be legal tender in payment of all debts, public and private, within the United States. An annual remittance of \$30,000, less stipulated expenses, accrues to emigrants under the Convention made with Spain in 1834. These remittances, since the passage of that act, have been paid in such notes. The claimants insist that the Government ought to require payment in coin. The subject may be deemed worthy of your attention.

No arrangement has as yet been reached for the settlement of our claims for British depredations upon the commerce of the United States. I have felt it my duty to decline the proposition for arbitration made by Her Majesty's Government, because it has hitherto been accompanied by reservations and limitations incompatible with the rights, interest, and honor of our country. It is not to be apprehended that Great Britain will persist in her refusal to satisfy these just and reasonable claims, which involve the sacred principles of non-intervention—a principle henceforth not more important to the United States than all other commercial nations.

The West India Islands were settled and colonized by European States simultaneously with the settlement and colonization of the

American Continent. Most of the colonies planted here became independent nations in the close of the last and the beginning of the present century. Our own country embraces communities which at one period were colonies of Great Britain, France, Holland, Spain, Sweden, and Russia. The people in the West Indies, with the exception of those of the Island of Hayti, have neither attained nor aspired to independence, nor have they become prepared for self defence. Although possessing considerable commercial value, they have been held by several European States which colonized or at some time conquered them, chiefly for purposes of military and naval strategy in carrying out European policy and design in regard to this continent. In our Revolutionary war, ports and harbors in the West India Islands were used by our enemy to the great injury and embarrassment of the United States. We had the same experience in Great Britain. The same European policy for a long time excluded us even from trade with the West Indies, while we were at peace with all nations.

In our recent civil war, the Rebels and their piratical blockade-breaking allies found facilities in the same ports for the work, which they too successfully accomplished, of injuring and devastating the commerce which we are engaged in rebuilding. We labored especially under this disadvantage—that European steam vessels employed by our enemies found freely shelter, protection, and supplies in West India ports, while our own naval operations were necessarily carried on from our own distant shores. There was then a universal feeling of the want of an advanced naval outpost between the Atlantic coast and Europe. The duty of obtaining such an outpost peacefully and lawfully, while neither doing nor menacing injury to other States, earnestly engaged the attention of the Executive Department before the close of the war, and it has not been lost sight of since that time. A not entirely dissimilar naval war was waged in the Pacific. The required foothold there was fortunately secured by our late treaty with the Emperor of Russia, and it now seems imperative that the more obvious necessities of the Atlantic Coast should not be less carefully provided for. A good and convenient port and harbor, capable of easy defense will supply that want. With the possession of such a station by the United States neither we nor any other American nation need longer apprehend injury or offense from any transatlantic enemy. I agree with our early statement that the West Indies naturally gravitate to and may be expected ultimately to be absorbed by the Continental States including our own. I agree with them also that it is wise to leave the question of such absorption to the process of natural political gravitation. The islands of St. Thomas and St. John's, which constitute a part of the group called the Virgin Islands, seemed to offer us advantages immediately desirable, while their acquisition could be secured in harmony with the principles to which I have alluded. A treaty has therefore been concluded with the King of Denmark for the cession of those islands, and will be submitted to the Senate for consideration.

It will hardly be necessary to call the attention of Congress to the subject of providing for the payment to Russia of the sum stipulated in the treaty for the cession of Alaska. Possession having been formally delivered to our Commissioner, the territory remains for the present in care of a military force, awaiting such civil organizations as shall be directed by Congress.

The annexation of many small German States to Prussia, and the re-organization of that country under a new and liberal constitution, have induced us to renew the effort to obtain a just and prompt settlement of the long-voiced question concerning the claims of foreign States for military service from their subjects naturalized in the United States.

In connection with this subject the attention of Congress is respectfully called to a singular and embarrassing conflict of laws. The Executive Department of this Government has hitherto uniformly held, as it now holds, that naturalization in conformity with the Constitution and laws of the United States absolves the recipient from his native allegiance. The Courts of Great Britain hold that allegiance to the British Crown is indefeasible, and is not absolved by our laws of naturalization. British judges cite courts and law authorities of the United States in support of that theory against the position held by the Executive authority of the United States. This conflict perplexes the public mind concerning the rights of naturalized citizens, and impairs the national authority abroad. I called attention to this subject in my last annual Message, and now again respectfully appeal to Congress to declare the national will unmistakably upon this important question. The abuse of our laws by the clandestine prosecution of the African slave trade from Amer-

ican ports or by American citizens has altogether ceased, and under existing circumstances no apprehensions of its renewal in this part of the world are entertained. Under these circumstances it becomes a question whether we shall not propose to Her Majesty's Government a suspension or discontinuance of the stipulations for maintaining naval force for the suppression of that trade.

ANDREW JOHNSON.

Washington, Dec. 3, 1867.

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, December 11.—In the Senate, a petition was presented from an immense number of naturalized citizens, complaining of grievances and asking their rights to be defined by law; referred to Committee on Foreign Relations. Mr. Anthony introduced a bill declaring null the Confiscation and Forfeiture Acts, passed by rebel legislatures; referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Sherman introduced a bill, providing that all balances from captured or abandoned property be placed in the Treasury, and not drawn thence without the authority of law. Sherman stated that the amount reached several millions. A discussion ensued, during which McCulloch was charged with illegally disposing of several hundred thousands; and the bill was postponed.

Sumner presented a memorial from Gen. Brisbane and 30,000 Kentucky negroes, containing an allegation which Mr. Davis pronounced foul and mendacious libels on Kentucky.

A bill to raise legal tenders to par, came up. Morrill delivered an elaborate speech. After executive session, adjourned.

In the House, the Judiciary Committee reported back the bill relative to the government of the rebel States, and it was referred to the Reconstruction Committee. The Committee on Claims reported adversely on the position of the citizens of Chambers County, Georgia, claimants of rebel property.

Internal revenue receipts to-day \$300,000. Secretary Wells received a dispatch from the Acting Consul-General at Havana, dated December 10th, in which he says: "From our Consul at Jamaica, we have further news of the earthquakes at St. Thomas, Tortosa and St. Croix. The earthquake began on the 18th of November, and continued until the 20th. The destruction of lives and property was immense."

WASHINGTON, December 12.—In the Senate, Sherman reported the House bill repealing the cotton tax; it will be considered to-morrow. The bill covering proceeds captured and abandoned property into Treasury was resumed. Fessenden said it amounted to \$35,000,000, but he opposed the bill, as there are claims now pending in the Court of Claims for \$20,000,000 worth of this property, to whom the bill would work injustice. The subject was postponed. The joint resolution censuring the President was resumed. The Senate refused to concur in the House resolution to adjourn, until the bill striking "white" from the District laws becomes a law. Adjourned.

In the House, Ashley, of Ohio, offered a bill relating to the Freedmen's Bureau, which was referred to the Committee on Freedmen's Affairs; also, a bill to facilitate the reconstruction of the Southern States. Maynard offered a resolution, providing that diplomatic and consular representatives to Hayti and other African Governments, be selected from negroes; referred to Committee on Foreign Affairs. Schenck made a point of order, that under the Constitution, no distinctions should be made. The Speaker said the point was well taken.

The President's message to the Senate giving his reasons for the suspension of Stanton, is regarded as masterly and wonderfully shrewd. The President quotes Stanton's reply to the President's request that Stanton should resign; wherein Stanton says that considerations of a high public character lead him to withhold his resignation until the next meeting of Congress. This, the President holds, was not only a declaration, but was defiant and utterly wanting in the respect due from Stanton to his superior officer. The point is made, that Stanton could not appeal to the law creating the War Department, because that law gives the President the right to remove Stanton. The tenure of office bill alone supported Stanton; but that law did not compel Stanton to retain the office of Secretary of War. The President argues the necessity of unity and harmony among his constitutional advisers; alludes to his having with but one exception, retained the cabinet of his predecessor; states incidentally that the cabinet was unanimous on his policy of reconstruction, and upon the unconstitutionality of the tenure of office bill. Stanton, having been United States Attorney, was specially consulted, and was emphatic and absolute in his condemnation of the bill as unconstitutional. The most pointed specific charge, refers

to the New Orleans riots. According to the narrative, Gen. Baird reported to Stanton the danger of the riots, and asked advice. Stanton not only withheld instructions to Baird, but kept the despatch from the President and his Cabinet until after the occurrence of the riot. The President holds, that Stanton acted himself, or made message from Baird known to his superior, the riot would have been prevented. He produces a letter from Sheridan, to the effect that, had Sheridan been advised of the danger, the riot could have been avoided. The President concludes, that the public cannot complain of the change, because the judicious measures of the new Secretary have already saved many millions of public treasure.

Virginia Conservative Convention.

RICHMOND, Dec. 12.—The Conservative Convention met this morning. The Committee reported a series of resolutions, which were adopted unanimously as follows: The first recognizes that by the result of the war, slavery has been abolished, and it is not the desire of the people of Virginia to reduce to slavery again a people emancipated by the events of the war, and by amendments to the Constitution of the United States. The second asserts the right of Virginia to be restored to the Union, and declares her intention in good faith to perform her duties to the Union. The third protests against the governing of Virginia in any way not defined in the Federal Constitution. The fourth adopts the language of the resolution adopted at the Cooper Institute, New York, that Military Governments are subversive of the fundamental ideas of our Government, and its object, which is to subject the people of the Southern States to the rule of a race just emerged from slavery, is abhorrent to the civilization of mankind, and the Northern people, in surrendering, as it does, one-third of the Senate, and one-quarter of the House of Representatives, who are without any of the training, habits, or traditions of self-government. Fifth disclaims all hostility to the black population, and asserts that the people of Virginia sincerely desire to see their advance in intelligence, and are willing to extend to them liberal protection; but while any Constitution adopted by the State, should make all men equal before the law, yet this Convention distinctly declares that Governments of the States and Union were formed by white men, to be subject to their control, and suffrage should still be regulated so as to continue both under control of the white race.

A resolution was adopted, authorizing the Central Committee to take steps for testing the constitutionality of the Reconstruction Acts in the United States Supreme Court. In discussing this resolution, Gen. Imboden, who had sued out a mandamus against Gen. Schofield, stated that his case, with similar ones relative to suffrage in Alabama and Mississippi, would be carried to the Supreme Court.

The President was authorized to appoint a committee to prepare an address to the people of Virginia and of the United States, and the Convention adjourned sine die.

After the adjournment, Hon. R. M. T. Hunter made a short address, in answer to calls, in which he said that between slavery and military rule, he preferred the latter—for the men who wielded the latter were of his own race. He cited Hayti and Jamaica as results of negro rule, and believed that the radical majority in Congress, if they expected to control the blacks and prevent their excesses, would find themselves woefully mistaken. To give the blacks the power of government in the Southern States would be the highest crime against nature, and he believed when the North saw the results, there would be a re-action which would sweep such governments from the face of America. This generation has suffered, and many suffer more; but the State will live and look back at this period as only a dark episode. The secession now passing may make men truer to the State which gave them birth.

ATLANTA, December 12.—The Reconstruction Convention passed a relief ordinance this morning, introduced by R. B. Bullock, of Richmond, which reads as follows:

"Be it enacted, &c., That from and after the passing of this ordinance, all levies which have been or may be made under execution, issued from any court of this State, shall be suspended until this Convention shall have taken, or refused to take, final action upon the matter of relief; and that all sales under executions, in violation of this ordinance, shall be null and void, and of no effect."

The Georgia Supreme Court having decided that the stay laws of the last Legislature are unconstitutional, this ordinance, which it is understood will be enforced by Gen. Pope, commanding this Military District, will operate as a barrier to all legal actions upon private debts, until the Convention can act further.